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# THE BANDWAGON

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## THE EXECUTION OF "MARY"- Sparks Circus Elephant. By C. E. Duble CHS - Historian.

Everything had been moving along in fine style with the Sparks World Famous Shows for the season 1916, no unusual happenings had taken place and thousands of miles had been covered through fourteen States up to the Northern part of Maine along the Canadian border, since the circus opened the season April 10th in Salisbury, N.C.

On September 12th the Sparks Circus was exhibiting at Kingsport, Tenn., on the C.C.&O. Railway. Louis Reed had been in charge of the elephants but for some reason had to leave the circus in the late Summer and Paul Jacoby then took over the herd of five elephants, led by "Mary" the largest of the group.

Mary was the first elephant the Sparks Circus ever owned being bought when she was small. There were 8-sheet lithographs used by the circus in 1916 picturing Mary with this wording "Mighty Mary -- To be seen only with the Sparks Circus". At Kingsport that day between shows the elephants were taken about three blocks up the road from the lot to be watered. A young fellow who had joined out some time before was proding Mary with the bull hook to make her walk faster. He had been warned about this before. It was near the watering trough big Mary became enraged and with a blow from her trunk knocked him down, then crushed him it was reported. Jacoby the trainer, rushed to the spot but it was too late. Word was sent to the lot at once and many of the showfolks went to the scene. The elephants were returned to the lot and bull act omitted that night. The trainer was too nervous to put them through their regular act. However, all seemed to behave in the usual manner.

The next day September 13th the show was at Erwin, Tenn., also on the C.C.&O. Railway. The elephants were taken in parade, and put through the act in the afternoon performance in the customary manner, obedient as ever.

I do not know if the statement is true but old-timers with the show said some years previously Mary had killed a man one Sunday night in the menagerie for taking an arm full of hay from her while she was feeding.

Execution of Mary (continued)

Charles Sparks thinking that Mary might do some more harm decided to have her executed. The circus cannot afford to take chances with an untrustworthy beast. Permission was obtained from the railroad officials in Erwin where repair shops were located. After the tents were erected that morning the working men with show were sent to the railroad yards to dig Mary's last resting place. At 5.00 P.M. the five elephants were lined up and started on the march to the scene of the execution. A very heavy chain had been put around Mary's neck before leaving the show grounds. After several attempts and suggestions Mary was finally quieted and made stand in the centre of the track.

A crane mounted on a flat car, the kind used by wrecking crews was quietly moved up close to the elephant and the crane lowered. A large hook connected with a ring in the chain and the crane slowly raised Mary off her front feet. Her trunk pointed upward and at this moment, she shook her heavy body from side to side causing the link to snap. Her hind feet being but a short distance off the ground she dropped and sat up with front feet outstretched, making no attempt to run away, only shaking her head and lashing with her trunk.

A heavy cable was now brought that locked around her neck in some manner, the hook connected and Mary was again raised clear of the ground. Gradually and by degrees the trunk and legs hung limp. After a waiting period of some time she was pronounced dead. A veterinarian was on hand to see to that. The flat car with the crane moved slowly up the track then swung to the side and Mighty Mary who had performed before countless thousands and shuffled along in the glittering street parade on circus day was lowered into the final resting spot. Lime was spread over the remains, the earth replaced, and banked high with cinders.

The remaining four elephants had been kept contented nibbling grass at a safe distance. They were now lined up by Jacoby and headed for the lot. They missed Old Mary from her accustomed place in the lead and they began trumpeting and swinging their trunks all the way back. They finally became quiet after being placed in the menagerie. They had to be taught to go through the routine without their old leader and it was a few days before things finally adjusted themselves.

Louis Reed had taught Mary at his command to utter sounds resembling "Ma-Ma" and "Uh-Uh". If Reed and Jacoby are still with the white tops I am unable to say. A weekly publication at that time "The Pennsylvania Grit" had a full page front cover sketch of the hanging, along with a full account. However it was greatly exaggerated and only an imaginary drawing of the artist. Walter Jung, a clown with the circus took three separate views, one showing Charles Sparks and Jacoby beside Mary before the hanging took place.

Though this event took place twenty-nine years ago, no doubt the other four elephants, Mary's pals of those days may still be troding the sawdust arena and could be found in the elephant line today with other PRODIGIOUS, PONDEROUS, PACHYDERMS, contentedly munching hay in some circus menagerie.

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 Editor's note to Bill Woodcock CHS - how about giving us the history of the "other four bulls". And any other history about this event and those connected with it. We shall be glad to publish a supplementary article in an early issue of the Bandwagon. Thanks, Bill.

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 The photo accompanying this issue was received through the kindness of CHS Joseph Tracy, and shows Charles Gerlach who was leader of the John Robinson Ten Big Show Concert Band - for the season of 1911. This is a real old photo and a worthwhile addition to your collection.

## JOHN DEL VECHO

The Story of his life as personally related to  
Joseph L. Tracy CHS.

This is a short story of an interesting life - born 1863, and now 82 years old, he and Mrs. Del Vecho are living with their daughter at 28 Prairie Ave., Buffalo 7, N.Y.

He started to troupe in 1880 at the age of 17 years and retired in 1938, after having trouped for over 50 years.

In 1880, started with Juniville Opera Co., (Black Crook) for six years and it was the first that the chorus girls wore tights on the stage. Then he teamed up with Thomas Walters in a musical sketch playing vaudeville houses for four years.

Started with Primrose & Dockstader's Minstrels 1900 to 1906 and was in the 1st Automobile Parade held in 1900, by that company. It was Al. Jolson's start as a black faced end man, while Del Vecho played the organ on the stage and played baritone horn in parade.

Then with Stetson's Uncle Tom Shows from 1909 to 1914, leader of band in parade and played on stage. Back with Dockstader's Minstrels in years 1915-16. Primrose had passed away.

Started with Gentry Dog & Pony Shows in 1917, then with Sells Floto Circus from 1919 to 1921. Played under C.L. Brown, leader of the band.

With Neal O'Brien Minstrels 1922-24. With Charles Sparks Circus who by the way is still living today, years 1925 to 1934. Under band leader Jack Philips as he was known by his first name Jack, and he passed away last year 1944, at Columbus, Ohio.

Then with Andrew Downie Circus (Charles Sparks Owner) from 1934 to 1938, and retired that year and came to Buffalo.

Played calliope with Gentry and Sparks and wrote music for Sparks' Specs. Was writer of music in his spare time for Dramatic, Tom Shows, Circuses and many other companies.

He sends greetings to all his friends who have known him and to those who have been associated with him in the past and he will welcome any letters from his old friends of the White City.

Editor's Note: We have a nice photo of Del Vecho which will be made up and sent out with a later issue of the Bandwagon. This is the second "oldtimer" that CHS Tracey has hunted out for us. Very nice work.

CHS F.M. Farrell now with the Clyde Beatty Circus writes in reference to the historical photo of Welch Bros. Circus sent out with Bandwagon (August 1945) "In the picture of Welch Bros., 1903, I will say that in the picture appear a few troupers acquaintances of my trouping days. Geo. Taft was from Mohawk, N.Y. and trouped with Sig Sautelle's Circus for a number of years. Tubs was with the Christy Show when I was with it, also Garry Vanderbilt and Pogie O'Brien trouped on shows that I was with so the picture is more than interesting to me".

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NOTICE RE CHRISTMAS ISSUE GREETINGS

We are planning on having a large Christmas issue as usual, and intend to make it up with more historical articles. For this reason we ask that those members and Divisions who plan on having space in it - arrange to cut the ad space down to a minimum, and use no more than one-third of a page. This is necessitated because of the fact that a very large issue in mimeographed form is very bulky for mailing. Please have copy of all ads to us no later than December first.

THE BANDWAGON is published and edited by Walter W. Tyson, 27 Green St., Guelph, Ont., and John B. Lyon, 210 Waterloo Ave., Guelph, Ont., Canada. Any copy for ads will receive attention when sent to either of these addresses.

NOTES FROM THE SECRETARY'S MAIL BAG

Durt Wilson caught the opening of the Dan Rice circus in Kanakakee, Ill., along with J. A. Havirland, and both reported having a nice time, and meeting a number of oldtimers. Durt Wilson reports having seen, in addition to the Rice Show, the following -- F.B.D.D., Arthur Bros., Austin Bros., M.L. Clark, Cole, Bailey Bros.

Ray Choisser, writes that he visited the Clyde Beatty show in Murphysboro, Ill., and had a nice time visiting friends on the lot.

Ray Friesel, addressed the Rotary Club in Trafford, Pa., displaying some of his models, and giving a brief history of some of the wagons among his models and also a history of the circus in general.

Dob Collins notes that he visited Dailey Bros. circus in Washington OH, Ohio, and had a nice visit with Mr. and Mrs. Davenport. Also he paid a visit to Terrell Jacobs at his farm at Peru, Ind.

A meeting is planned by Division One members at Terrell Jacobs circus farm at Peru, Ind., for Oct. 20, and 21st. It is expected that CHS members from Pa., Mo., and Ill., will attend, in addition to those of the Division states of Ohio, Mich., and Ind.

Boyd J. McWhorter, CHS writes that in the Aug. issue of the magazine "Trains", there is an excellent illustrated article on "The Circus Moves by Rail". In addition to the printed text there are several pages of fine unloading and train scenes. Publisher -- Kalmbach Publishing Co., 1027 N. 7th St., Milwaukee, Wis. Price, 25¢.

Dob Collins, writes that he visited with Mr. and Mrs. Davenport on the Dailey Bros. circus in Washington OH, Ohio, and that he also had a nice visit with Terrell Jacobs at Peru, Ind.

In the magazine section of the Lewiston Journal, Lewiston, Maine, CHS John M. Brown, has a full two page article on "Famous Elephant Killed When Circus Visited Maine in 1816" This fine article is copiously illustrated by rare cuts and photos from the collection of Mr. Brown, and is of great historical value. Date of issue of this paper -- July 28, 1945.

Walter Pietschmann, and Don Smith caught the Mills Bros. circus in Oxford, Mich., and the Dailey Circus in Delaware, Ohio. While in Delaware, they met with George Hubler, of the Air Force, who had flown up from his station in Florida, and with Fred Pfening, who came on the lot from Columbus, Ohio, his home. A nice visit was had by all these CHS members.

CHS Clarence Pfeffer, has been released from the services, and is now back at his home, 1021 Ash St., Johnstown, Pa. Address all letters to Clarence to this address. We welcome him back home, and hope that he will again find his way to many circus lots.

CHS Dette Leonard caught the Ringling circus in Wichita, the Cole Show in Hutchinson, and the Al. G. Kelley Miller show in Newton, all Kansas.

CHS Bill Green sent in an interesting report of his visit on the Kelly-Millar Circus when they showed in his home town, Washington, Kansas - August 16th. Reports everything in good condition, with beautiful horses and ponies and two well trained bulls. Bill entertained several members of the show at his home to view his collection. They in turn entertained Bill on the lot, and he had meals in the cook house. A big day indeed!

CHS Edwin Wendler in referring to the September Note Sheet said that he saw the Hagenbeck-Wallace circus that season - 1912. He wonders if anyone can tell us if Al. Massey was the circus Bandleader that season, Cleopatra was Spec. on the B&D show that year too, and that circus says Wendler "was without a doubt the greatest show I ever witnessed." Could anyone give Wendler a breakdown as to instruments for the Barnum & Bailey Band for that season under Bandmaster Brill?

CHS Wm. F. Machado - who makes a specialty of collecting circus letterheads, would like some help from some who have any extras to spare. His address is 18 Richmond Street, New Bedford, Mass. - why not help him along?

NOTES FROM THE SECRETARY'S MAILBAG - (Continued)

CHS Bette Leonard - while on the Ringling-Barnum lot during the Wichita engagement, talked with "Blackie Nye" - the backyard Policeman. He wanted her to tell all CHS members that when they visit the Big Show they are to look him up, and he will take care of their cars for them.

CHS Leonard Quist sends in the following report as to his activities for the season - Visited with Brother Frank Norton who has Monkey Show on Bright-lights Shows at the following towns, Jeanette, Irwin, Mt. Pleasant, Herminie, New Kensington and Indian, all in Penna. Had a swell time with Bro. Norton and his monks. I also visited the following shows and circuses, Dumont Shows; Beams Shows; Eddie's Exposition Show; Lawrence Greater Shows; Cole Bros. Circus; Clyde Beatty Circus; Bailey Bros. Circus; Bears-Barnes Circus. I got about 100 tickets of Norton's Monkeyland show - and if any member wants one for the scrap book they may get one by writing to me. Also enjoyed nice visits with Bros. Bowman, Guy, Conrad and Friesel.

CHS John Crowley reports the following:- "On Sunday, September 9th, the Fall Gathering of the New England, CFA, CHS and CMB&OA was held at Benson's Wild Animal Farm in Hudson, N.H. with an attendance of 30. CHS Members included the following - Dr. Olzendam; John C. McDonough; Arthur Gunther; Lawrence C. Brown; John J. Crowley; Jim Reynolds; Paul Horsman Jr., Chas. Davitt; and Joseph Beach.

All looked over the various wild and domestic animals on display and also witnessed the various training periods in the different rings and arenas, such as Joe Walsh in the steel arena with Alfred Court's Old Act of 9 tigers and 4 lions; Capt. Fred Pitson who worked ponies, horses, mules and rode menage; trained chimps; Betsey the trained Bull. Then being given the use of #2 ring by the Benson Management, an exhibition was held of some of the models brought to the gathering. Ben Perkins CFA brought one of his three air calliopes and played many selections. Bob Kimball also played the calliopo. John Crowley CFA, amateur clown tramp did several walkarounds and several tricks of clown magic as well as clowning the gathering. Benson's Farm is kept up very well, and now that the war is over, it is planned to import wild animals to sell to zoos and shows."

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Members will note the absence of the AUCTION BLOCK in this issue. We are gathering together a nice selection and will offer them in the Christmas issue. Any members having any donations - please send them to the Secretary at once and let us have a nice offering to close off the year.

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CHS Frank Kindler writes that he, along with his wife and CHS Willard Gehrenbeck attended THE BIG SHOW in Minneapolis August 23rd. Ran across the first CHS member on any circus - he was CHS Dick Anderson catcher in the Clayton Beebe Flying Act. It was a pleasure and inspiration and gave me a good slant on the fine calibre of the members of CHS. Had a very fine visit with Felix Adler, Shirley Byron, Emmett Kelley; Merle Evans; Mr. Miller who writes the Billboard column for the show; The Wallendas; Rose Sullivan; Theo Nelson; Pat Valdo and John Brice.

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SPECIAL NOTICE - During the current month the members will receive from the President, a news letter outlining the forthcoming CHS Election which will be held in November. This letter will call for nominations - and it will be helpful if you will return the nomination ballott as quickly as possible to Bill Green CHS, who has again been appointed Election Commissioner. All details will be given in the news letter.

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Despite the fact that this matter has been mentioned in previous issues, there are still a few members who appear to be delinquent in their dues. Please check up on the expiry date on your membership card NOW - and if you are behind in same, send remittance to the Treasurer at once. Those whose cards expire November 1st, 1945, will also be in line to renew their dues. Those who are too far behind in dues, will necessarily have to be left off the next membership list, something that we do not wish to have to do.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS - PERMANENT

- No ....133-Mr. Robert J. Devenney, Augustine and Christian Sts., Newport, Del.  
New Address..311 Christian St., Newport, Delaware.
- No ....95-Mr. Wm. H. Walton, 107 E. 10th Ave., Homestead, Pa.  
New Address..648 Doyle Ave., West Homestead, Pa.
- No ....101-Mr. Charles H. White, 223 N. 10th St., Fredonia, Kansas  
New Address..233 N. 10th St., Fredonia, Kansas.
- No ....85-Mr. J.A. Havirland, 1551 East 65th St., Chicago 37, Ill.  
New Address..8818 So. Dante Ave., Chicago 19, Ill.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS - TEMPORARY - GOOD TILL FURTHER NOTICE

- No ....133-Mr. Robert J. Devenney, 311 Christian St., Newport, Delaware  
Temp. Address..Cpl. Robert J. Devenney, 32488168,  
657th Air Materiel Squadron, 407th Air Service Group, PAAF, Pratt, Kansas
- No ....229-Mr. Charles H. Elwell, 116 Main St., Bennington, Vt.  
Temp. Address..Charles H. Elwell, AEM 3/C, A.P. -03, Bks. 6,  
N.A.T.T.C., Jacksonville, Florida
- No ....47-Mr. Wm. Koford, 850 N. Main St., Jamestown, N.Y.  
Temp. Address..Apt. 1415, Croydon Hotel, Chicago, Ill.

WILL MEMBERS PLEASE REMOVE FROM MEMBERSHIP THE FOLLOWING

- No ....20-Mr. Perley M. Silloway, Box 886, Lewiston, Montana  
Resigned

PLEASE ADD THESE NEW MEMBERS TO YOUR MEMBERSHIP LIST

- No ....221 Mr. Clayton R. Hawkes, Castle Creek, N.Y.  
Ph; Li; Pr; PM
- No ....222 Mr. Paul Horsman, 31 Courtland St., Middleboro, Mass.  
GC; sp in ph. of Terrell Jacobs circus
- No ....223 Mr. Edward Keller, 919 Hamilton St., Allentown, Pa.  
GC
- No ....224 Mr. A.J. Koveleski, 2614 Cedar Ave., Scranton, Pa.  
Models
- No ....225 Mr. Edmund Hawthorne, 48 Leander Road, Thornton Heath, Surrey,  
GC England
- No ....226 Mr. James D. Reynolds, Jr., 15 Oak St., Middleboro, Mass.  
Ph; M
- No ....227 Mr. Wendell Goodwin, P.O. Box 653, Trenton 4, N.J.  
GC; Pr; Dks; AM
- No ....228 Mr. Herbert S. Hoyt, 2413 Joplin St., Joplin, Mo.  
Ph.
- No ....229 Mr. Charles H. Elwell, 116 Main St., Bennington, Vt.  
GC; M; Ph; Li; Pr.
- No ....230 Mr. Harry Heath, 2109 W. Pacific, Philadelphia, Pa.  
M
- No ....231 Mr. Jim Hassan, Jr., 2211 Fairmount Ave., Philadelphia, Pa.  
M
- No ....232 Mr. James A. Schweitzer, 1131 Wertz Ave., S.W., Canton 4, Ohio  
M
- No ....233 Mr. John T. Follansbee, 234 Berkeley Pl., Brooklyn, N.Y.  
Ph; model animals, ceramic.

April 6, 1907..Sells Floto--H.H. Tammen, mgr. is out on 30 cars.

April 3-4, 1907..Sun Bros. Circus opened at Macon, Ga.

Apr. 27, 1907..Hagenbeck-Wallace opened at Peru, Ind.

April 27, 1907..Charles Geyers Shows were destroyed by fire at Roscoe, Tex.

April 23, 1907..John Robinson opened at Cincinnati, Ohio

April 30, 1907..Forepaugh-Sells opened at Columbus, Ohio

May 4, 1907..Fashion Plate Shows opened at Geneva, Ohio, (W.L.Main)

Oct. 3, 1907..Charles H. Day, 65, died at New Haven, Conn. He was  
head press agent for P.T. Barnum, later on D&D., Forepaugh, and Sells.  
Bros. shows.

Notes sent in by CHS Frank Norton,  
from old Billboard files.

INTERNATIONAL CIRCUS.... as seen at Luxembourg City, 10 May 1945  
by CHS Tom Parkinson "Over there".

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48 wagons - European type with trailer-type tongues. Some with solid rubber tires, some with steel rims. Painted red and cream, no carvings or ornate lettering. Included 2 ticket wagons, 7 cages, and a large number of living wagons. Also had 4 tractors, 1 truck.

48 head of horses - including 9 white, 6 black, 10 brown, 3 palomino, 18 ponies, 1 donkey. Stabled in two long, narrow tents at rear of lot.

7 cages - containing 14 birds, 1 goat, 23 monkeys, 1 polar bear, 1 lion, 2 brown bears, 1 hyena, and one empty cage. Show also had 5 ducks and 1 porcupine. One tiger, 1 leopard, and 2 zebras died during the war. Cages were parked in a line for the public to see, but were in the backyard and were not under canvas.

In Menagerie Top - 5 camels, 1 llama, 1 emu, 1 elephant (named Piche Lille) One zebra was in the horse tent. Menagerie top was square - about 24' by 24', or larger.

Route to May - Opened at Esch, Luxembourg, winter quarters town; then to Differdange, Dudelange, Bettembourg, and Luxembourg City. They close there on May 8. Remained in city to give special show for US Army on May 12. Then were to move to Reims, France. Moves are made with tractors pulling 2 or 3 wagons at a time. Long moves are made by rail and 48 European-typecars are required. Show toured during war and occupied seasons.

Big Top - was a round top using four poles. Canvas was new, made in Switzerland. Size estimated to be 90'. Box seats on two sides of single ring. Chairs behind these, and finally the blues. Blues had no back rests, but did have floor boards. And the whole assembly - jacks, stringers, floors, etc.- was nailed together. Electric lights were used and they had several spot lights for special events. No smoking allowed. All signs were in both French and German. Band stand located over the back door. Band of 8 to 10, no calliope or organ. Show also had large marquee and backdoor canopy, making a total of 6 tents.

This circus was owned by a Herr Althoff and his wife, Helene Hoppe, both of Luxembourg and both of old circus families. Helene Hoppe's family has been trouping since 1648. Althoff had a herald from the Corty-Althoff Circus, 1886. This particular show was started in 1936. Althoff said he was on Ringling Bros. Circus in 1912 and 1913, and his wife reported that Adolf De lBosque (wrong spelling) now on Ringling was once on her father's show. Title of the present show is new and the title "Hoppe" is visible on the wagons.

All equipment on the show was in first class condition and it made a fine appearance on the lot. Incidentally a portable picket fence surrounded the show grounds.

Personnel was friendly and helpful, and being familiar with Les Amis du Cirque, they understood what a "circus fan" might be. Record of names has been lost, however I recall another man named Althoff worked the bull, a woman had a dog and pony act, a man gave a bird circus, there was a wire act, liberty horses, liberty ponies working with dogs and monkeys, trampoline, bareback, family doing Risely act, and aerial acts.

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Note: With the above article, and the one on following page CHS Tom Parkinson wrote from Austria - an interesting letter from which we quote as follows: "I finally got a pass to Paris and was there on V-E Day. While there I saw the Cirque Midrano. I'll not go into details - only to say I was a little disappointed in the performance I saw. The Clown Twins were very good. I enjoyed them a lot in spite of the limit to my French. The rest of the performance was weak. So far I have seen 4 shows in Europe, 1 English, 2 French and 1 Luxemburg. The latter was by far the best, probably because it had been in German Territory during their "good" years. I met several of the performers and the owners, Herr Althoff and his wife, Helene Hoppe. It was a traditional old-time circus. I saw some of the performers at training and greatly enjoyed meeting them, and seeing an old man teaching his children his act."  
(signed) Tom Parkinson CHS.

EUROPEAN CIRCUS NOTES as told by manager of Circus International - as related to CHS Tom Parkinson.

In 1935 Germany alone had 42 circuses touring.

Schweizer National Zirkus. This is the only Swiss circus and with the exception of a few winter dates in Berlin and Warsaw it shows only in Switzerland. It is owned by the four Knie brothers, Friedrich (mgr) Karl, Eugen, and Rudolf. A herald for about 1918 listed 20 acts; with an intermission coming after the 9th. Shows were given at 8 p.m. daily and matinees at 3 on Saturdays and Sundays. It also uses the title Circus Knie, and an undated roto courier entitled Knie's Illustrierte Circus-Zeitung includes many photos of performers - wire, wild animal, roller skating, wild west, human cannon ball, clowns, etc.. scenes of the show on railroad cars, lot scenes - lading the big top, stake crews, unloading wagons - and one page of pictures of a blow-down suffered by the show. Mention is made of an indoor engagement in which 24 railroad carloads of equipment were used. Also listed are 10 camels, 14 tigers, 12 lions, and elephants.

Sarrasini German circus with 28 elephants, 250 horses. Was in South America in 1928 and 1932.

KLUDSKY Czechoslovakian circus on the road from 1875 to 1934 when it was sold to several European circus men including Aymer of Paris. Kludsky had 32 elephants, 120 animals, 350 horses, and 3 rings.

Krone German circus operating out of Munich where it owned a building (arena). Show began in 1885 and was going when last heard of. War may have destroyed it. They used 3 rings, 32 elephants, 400 horses. It was in Krone's circus building in Munich that Hitler gave his first public address - about 1923. The original Krone has died and the show has been taken over by his son-in-law.

Circus Carre Festspiele was at Metz in 1913.

Circus Renz, a big name in German circuses, opened in Berlin on 28 March, a season of 1894. Featured Lataver Lee, clown; and Dainef and his 3 daughters in a foot-balancing act. Program included 18 acts, one of which was a 3-act pantomime. Shows were given at 7:30 p.m., and the printed program cost 20 pfennigs.

NOTE: The above information was given by Althoff from memory during an informal conversation, with the exception of those figures and facts accredited to heralds, programs, or couriers. Therefore there may be errors.

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Members Roy & Esther Frietsch CHS - write that they visited the following shows during 1945. Cole Bros., Lee Bros., M.L. Clark & Son, Bailey Bros., Dailey Bros., Austin Bros., Arthur Bros., Monroe Bros., and Ringling-Barnum & Bailey.

They started off by visiting Cole Bros., in Peoria, Ill., on April 27th. May 15th found them at Lacon, Ill., on the Lee Bros. lot. June 8th visited the M.L. Clark & Son circus at Geneseo, Ill., and also the same show later in the season at Canton, Pekin and Lincoln, all in Illinois. Enjoyed meeting CHS Bob Taber and his wife who are with this show.

First visited Monroe Bros., on June 10th at Heyworth, Ill., and later at Elpasco, and Washington, Ill. Bailey Bros. was seen June 13th at Lincoln, Ill., and on July 11th in Morris, Ill. Austin Bros was the show on July 11th in Galesburgh, Ill., then at Canton, Ill., and Bloomington, Ill., on July 16th. Had pleasure of visiting with Terrell Jacobs - CHS. Arthur came to Bloomington, Ill., on August 4th and Dailey Bros. on the 12th at Peoria, Ill. The last show was Ringling-Barnum at West Allis, Wisc. We wish to say we were treated with every respect and courtesy on each and every lot. We sincerely think the owners have done their very best to put on a good performance and keep the show moving smoothly with their shortage of help and equipment, and rationing.

A FEW MORE NOTES BY CHARLES WHITE - CHS

As most CHS members know, C.H. White, CHS, old time troupier, was also at one time a railroad engineer, and he relates the following account of hauling the circus in the 90's.

"....The Master Mechanic informed me that the Barnum show was coming on our division, and as he knew that I had been a showman, he asked me how I would like to handle one of the trains. The circus came on our division at Quincy, Ill., and I, with my engine, along with three other crews, was sent down to receive them. My fireman and I were lucky to catch the last train, consisting of some of the ring stock, a few flats and the performers coaches. The show stopped at Macomb, Ill., and in the morning, when the performers started leaving the coaches, my folks were sure surprised to learn that I had pulled them into town. With the Barnum show that year were my dad, working ponies and dogs; my stepmother who was wardrobe mistress, and two sisters, Emma and Lizzie. Emma was a rider in the races, and her husband, Bob Bixby was boss property man. Lizzie was also a rider in the races, and her husband, Ed. Caron, was a tumbler and clown.

That evening, my dad rode in the engine cab with me to Galesburg, Ill., our next stop, and as I lived only half a block from the runs, after the evening show in Galesburg, my family came to the house, and my wife and daughters entertained them until time for the show train to leave. The show was on our division for three days, so I had three days' visit with my folks.

I also handled the Barnum show four days the year of the St. Louis World's Fair. On the way from Quincy, Ill., to Galesburg, some of the English running horses got loose in the car, and one horse named Banjo was kicked pretty badly on one of his hind legs, and had three or four bad cuts. Mr. Bailey was going to have him killed, but my brother-in-law, Bob Bixby, prevailed upon Mr. Bailey to give me the horse to doctor. At that time I also had two Shetland ponies, which I drove tandem in a pony cart."

OREGON'S FIRST CIRCUS

By Emerol Stacy - Sent in by CHS Thelci Dechort.

In 1852, the first circus made the rounds of Oregon, billed as "Cooper & Rivers' Great New York Circus". In Portland the circus tent was pitched at 4th and Morrison Streets. It is doubtful if any of the equestriennes and renowned trapeze performers on the circus bill had ever seen the white lights on the sidewalks of New York, or even crossed the boundary line of the Empire State, but it read well and sounded good, and no pioneer boy would have been guilty of disbelief.

A short time later Queen's Circus made a tour of the small towns of Oregon. In the summers following, other circuses visited Portland, notably "Lee & Ryland's Circus Troupe". This circus proved very popular indeed, and the evening performance of August 1865, is described as follows:

"A good audience both as to dollars and respectability, greeted the performance of Lee & Ryland's circus troupe last evening. Half of the program given would have been more than worth the price of admission."

The next August, the "Great Eastern & Royal European Circus" visited Portland and performed at 5th and Morrison streets, delighting the boys of 'tt who thought it a grand and glorious affair.

While these circuses boasted bands and music, they did not bring the first bands to Oregon. The first band on the Pacific Coast, the first in the great Northwest, came to Oregon in 1849 as a part of the mounted rifle regiment. The intention had been to quarter the regiment at Fort Vancouver, but there being no accommodations at that place, the brass band was taken to Oregon City and here "Yankee Doodle" first woke the echoes in the "hills and dales" of Oregon.

QUOTED FROM THE HAGERSTOWN, MD. - MORNING HERALD, SEPT. 10, 1945

The Circusiana Exhibition at the Washington County Museum of Fine Arts closed Wednesday after enjoying a "smash" success for sixteen days. Attendance figures released by the museum officially total 2,356 visitors to the display of circus lore sponsored and presented by the Hagerstown members of the Circus Fans Association, the Circus Historical Society and the Circus Model builders and Owners Association.

In a letter to local members of the three organizations - C.F.A., C.H.S. and C.M.B. and O.A., Dr. J.R.Craft, museum director stated:

"Speaking for the museum, we are happy to have been your medium through which your material has evoked such a favorable public response. It will be our definite objective to fit similar exhibits into our schedule for future summers. Hagerstown can take pride in your activity, as we have been proud to work through it."

Hagerstown Circus Fans, Modelbuilders, Historians and Collectors extend grateful thanks to Dr. Craft and his assistants, Miss Mary Harter and Mr. Sites for their splendid cooperation and aid, without which the exhibition's outstanding success could not have been achieved.

Also, local members wish to thank the following contributors of circus lore of all types: Walter Tyson of Ontario, Canada, president of the Circus Historical Society; Maurice J. Allaire, Eastern divisional director of CHS and publicity director of CMB and OA, of Portland, Maine; Mrs. Bette Leonard of Wichita, Kansas, Western divisional director of CHS; Thomas J. Vecchio, West Point, N.Y., member of CMB and OA; Frank Updegrove, Boyertown, Pa., regional director of CMB and OA; P.M. McClintock, historian and collector of Detroit, Michigan; Charles E. Doelker, Harrisburg, past president CMB and OA; H. Russell Wagner, Harrisburg, past secretary-treasurer CMB and OA; Mr. and Mrs. Russell Warner, Harrisburg, members of CMB and OA; W.G. Heist, Jr., Pembroke, Pa., member of CHS; Doyd J. McWhorter, Mooresfield, W.Va., member of CHS and CMB and OA; Herbert Ciehl, Wilmington, Del., member of CMB and OA; John Heckman, Waynesboro, Pa., member of CFA; Paul R. Horsman, Jr., Middleboro, Mass., member of CMB and OA; and the Library of Congress, Washington.

The generous loans of valuable articles from the circusiana collections of the above individuals made the Hagerstown display the largest and most complete of its kind ever held in the East.

Local exhibitors included: P.R. Hamphill, president of Emmett Kelly Tent -- CFA, member of CHS and CMB and OA; P.C. Hepperle, CGA; James L. Harshman, state chairman, Dan Rice Top -- Md. Division of CFA and member of CHS; Edward W. Ditto, Ill., CFA; Austin B. Harper, member of CMB and OA; and Philip W. Shockey, chairman of Emmett Kelley Tent ways and means committee, CFA.

A number of invitations for similar exhibits have been received by the Hagerstown Circus Fans, whose chief aim is to work for the preservation of the grandest amusement institution in America.

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While the above exhibition was also mentioned in our September Note Sheet -- we are glad to print the above -- selected from a number sent to us by CHS P.R. Hemphill, Jr., because of the fact that this was the first exhibition of this type, sponsored by a CHS group to be held in a nationally known museum, and also the first to receive wide spread press recognition.

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Barnum & Bailey closed at Dyersburg, Tenn., October 17th, 1907 and shipped to Bridgeport, Conn. Covered 17,000 miles.

Buffalo Bill Wild West closed at Richmond, Va., October 19th and shipped to Bridgeport, Conn., quarters.

Notes sent in by CHS Frank Norton  
from old Billboard file.

C H A R L E S   G E R L A C H

Referring to the life story of this old trouper carried in the Bandwagon recently, we have received many interesting items about him, among them the following:

From CHS C.E. Doble - we quote: "I was very glad to read the article in late Bandwagon regarding my old friend, Charles Gerlach. It was with him that I started my long circus season of 1909 with Sun Brothers World's Progressive Shows, of Macon, Ga. I had met Charles Gerlach in September, 1907 - the first time, when Sun Brothers Circus played Louisville, Ky. I went to the show that night and gave Mr. Gerlach a bundle of band music. He gave me his Buffalo address, and we exchanged letters at times. So it was with him that I started in show business 36 years ago. I was with him again the full season of 1911 with the John Robinson 10 Big Shows, and again one winter with the Kibble's Uncle Tom's Cabin Co., playing theatres. He was a trouper of the old school, a clever musician and arranger, and I have always been proud to say that I made my start with him. I visited him in 1930 and again in 1931 when I was in Buffalo with the circus. It brought back old times to read the fine article from Mr. Tracey".

Also in the same letter Doble writes, in answer to a recent query as to the use in the R-B parade of the Two Hemispheres Bandwagon -

"The Two Hemispheres bandwagon was used in parades with Ringling-Barnum Circus 1919 and 1920, which was the last year for parades with that circus. Will add that I rode the same wagon season 1913 with Barnum & Bailey Greatest Show on Earth, and again 1919 with Ringling-Barnum."

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The Story on Charles Gerlach, also prompted the following few lines from ex-trouper and friend of CHS Harry P. Parkhurst: "I would say that the Adam Forepaugh circus was in Chicago 1893 - Sunday June 4th to Sunday, June 18th, and used the Lake-Front-Lot, without any opposition from Sell's Bros. -- according to the 1893 route book I have. The Adam Forepaugh Circus had six days in Chicago in 1891, and that was not the last time for a circus on the lake front lot. 1893 was the last season for the Forepaugh Circus. At the close of that season some of the equipment was shipped to Bridgeport, Conn. In 1894 McCaddon and Anderson framed a small circus with the remainder. The Sells Bros. did not close the fall of 1891, but sometime in the early '90's they shipped to Australia, and about 1896 the Forepaugh and Sells Shows combined. Thus the celebrated herd of dancing elephants with other equipment was shipped to Columbus, Ohio, for the combination. Just thought some of the readers would like these few notes".

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A few corrections by CHS Sam Chapman - with reference to Charles Gerlach.

"The article this month, (Aug. Bandwagon) on the life of Charles Gerlach claimed that both the Sells Brothers and the Adam Forepaugh Circus closed and were off the road for several seasons. I remember seeing the Adam Forepaugh Show during the year of 1892, 93, and 94, this last year and in 1893 there were two Adam Forepaugh Shows out, one being operated by Bailey, W. W. Cole, and the other one being operated by Addie Forepaugh, Jr., his being billed as the only living Adam Forepaugh Circus. The only year which saw no Forepaugh Circus was in 1895, and most oldtime showmen know that the wagons and cars and seats were used to outfit the first James Bailey owned Buffalo Bill's Wild West. In 1896 the Sells Brothers combined their shows with the Adam Forepaugh title and went out, Lewis Sells being the manager. This year ended the circus era here in Philadelphia; the quarters of the 4-Paw and Sells Circus was located in Columbus, Ohio. The Ringlings bought the Forepaugh and Sells Circus, and it was under their control completely in 1906 and 1907. At the end of 1907 the show was taken off the road, and in 1910 and 1911 was returned to the road with a fine circus performance and fine street parade. Too bad that such shows as this are now only memories in the minds of so many circus fans...."

SINCE BOYHOOD DAYS I'VE ALWAYS GONE  
TO EVERY CIRCUS SHOW  
THAT HAPPENED 'ROUND OUR NECK OF WOODS,  
AN' SOMETIMES I WOULD GO  
A MANY A MILE TO OTHER TOWNS,  
A HORSEBACK AN' ON TRAINS,  
TO COOL A CIRCUS FEVER  
THAT WAS RAGIN' IN MY BRAINS.

Louis E. Cooke.

HAVE YOU READ "THE ADVENTURES OF 'ROCCO' THE CLOWN"?

AT LAST THE THRILLING STORY OF THE GREAT LAUGH MAKER AND HIS THRILLING EXPERIENCES WITH PUBILLIONS CIRCUS IN CUBA; HIS GREAT ADVENTURES WITH TREVINOS AND ORIN IN MEXICO AND A THRILLING ACCOUNT WITH SAVAGE MEXICAN MAI INDIANS; AND HIS GREAT TOUR THROUGH THE ORIENT WITH VARIOUS CIRCUSES.

AS TOLD TO:

WENDELL GOODWIN

A PRODIGIOUS PARADE OF PRINTED PARAGRAPHS.  
A MIGHTY MULTITUDE OF MATCHLESS MARVELS

SEND FIFTY CENTS TO FAMOUS CIRCUS FEATURES, P. O. BOX 653, TRENTON 4, N.J. AND A COPY OF THIS THRILLING STORY WILL BE IN YOUR COLLECTION. FIRST RUN LIMITED TO A FEW HUNDRED COPIES.

WATCH FOR THIS ONE

WENDELL GOODWIN IS NOW COMPILING A WHO'S WHO IN CIRCUSDOM. IT WILL LIST BY DEPARTMENTS EVERYONE CONNECTED WITH AMERICAN CIRCUSES, IT WILL ALSO INCLUDE SOME TRULY GREAT AND INTERESTING CIRCUS FACTS.

OUT SOON -- WATCH FOR IT!

ATTENTION CIRCUS ENTHUSIASTS

WOULD YOU LIKE TO READ THE REAL STORY OF THE MIGHTY WPA CIRCUS? WENDELL GOODWIN, WHO WAS GENERAL PRESS AGENT OF THE WPA 3-RING CIRCUS HAS BEEN URGED TO WRITE THE TRUE HISTORICAL FACTS -- AND TAKE YOU BEHIND THE SCENES -- WHERE YOU CAN SEE FOR YOURSELF THE BITTER FIGHT TO KEEP THE PROJECT ALIVE AMONGST AN AMAZING WEB OF INTRIGUE AND DOUBLE CROSSING. THE EFFORTS BY CERTAIN ELEMENTS TO ABOLISH IT. THE GREAT CIRCUS FANS NIGHT WHEN CFA FROM ALL OVER THE COUNTRY. THE TRUE STORY OF THE NIGHT THE TENT BURNED DOWN. THE BLOW DOWN. THE SHOW'S ANIMALS -- JAPINO THE ELEPHANT ALLEN'S LIBERTY HORSES, STANLEY'S BEARS, ENGERER'S LIONS, HOW PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT BECAME INTERESTED IN IT. VICE-PRESIDENT GARNER'S COUSIN ON THE SHOW AND HIS PIG ACT. AN EXPOSE OF THE EVIL BUREAUCY THAT TRIED TO RUIN IT. THE TRUTH ABOUT THE STRIKES. THE TRUTH ABOUT THE ARREST AND TRIAL OF OFFICIALS ACCUSED OF GRAFT. THE WHOLE STORY WHICH HAS BEEN DILIGENTLY SUPPRESSED. IT'S HISTORY -- AND WILL PROBABLY CAUSE CONSIDERABLE CONTROVERSY. THE BOOK WILL PROBABLY BE TITLED "THE REAL ARENA" IN ANSWER TO HALLIE FLANAGAN'S WISHY-WASHY STORY "THE ARENA" WHICH FAILED TO GIVE THE TRUTH ABOUT THE WPA CIRCUS. PLENTY OF FAMOUS OLD TIMERS WERE IN ITS CLOWN ALLEY - YOU'VE BEEN WONDERING WHERE THEY ARE - READ ABOUT THEM IN THIS GREAT HISTORICAL STORY -- BOOK WILL ALSO CONTAIN SOME INTERESTING NOTES ON VARIOUS WPA FEDERAL THEATRE OFFICIALS INCLUDING THE TERRIBLE TURKEY "SING FOR YOUR SUPPER" --- WALTER WINCHELL DEVOTED HIS ENTIRE COLUMN TO IT. DREW PEARSON, LOWELL THOMAS AND ARTHUR HALE ALSO COMMENTED ON IT. IT'S THE ONLY AUTHENTIC STORY OF WHAT REALLY HAPPENED. PUBLISHERS SAY THEY MUST SEE A POSSIBLE THREE THOUSAND ADVANCE SALES BEFORE THEY CAN UNDERTAKE TO PUBLISH IT. WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE IT PUBLISHED? HOW MUCH DO YOU THINK IT SHOULD SELL FOR? DROP A CARD TO WENDELL GOODWIN, P.O. BOX 653, TRENTON 4, N.J. LET HIM KNOW WHAT YOU THINK OF SUCH A BOOK.

YOU TRIED THE REST --- NOW TRY THE BEST!

The New Wardie Jay Circus Wagon Wheel, all drilled and ready to Paint. Get a good looking 16-spoke wheel on your Circus Wagon in 1/4" scale ..... at ..... 50¢ per set .....

FRANK P. HEALEY

21 Park Street,

Carbondale, Penna.

#### CHRISTY WAGON PHOTOS

Set of 6 Postcard size photos of the baggage wagons at Christy quarters, Houston, Texas, taken June 1st, 1945. These wagons came from the King Brothers - "Cole Bros. Circus" of 1930. Set of 6 - \$1.00. F/O G.B.Hubler, Box 97, Hendricks Field, Sebring, Florida.

6 - 1945 Bailey Bros. post card views \$1.00, main entrance and sideshow  
6 - 1945 Cole Bros. post card train views - \$1.00

WANTED: To buy or trade for view of the "JOMAR" pullman car which was John Ringling's private car. Also would like train views of Hagenbeck-Wallace, Al.G.Barnes, Sells-Floto, showing flats, stock and Pullman, or what have you to offer on other shows. Write:

JOHN HEIDL, 1017 - 5th Street,

Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

#### WILL SWAP

2 inch long China Camels, Bears, Lions and Elephants for animals such as horses, tigers, etc., value around fifty cents figuratively.

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New Model Performers - Clown, Lion, Horse, Seal, Dog, and Monkey. \$1.00 each. --- Ceramic - handpainted.

Ringling train and Big top photos -- 4 for \$1.00.

JOHN T. FOLLANSBEE

234 Berkeley Place,

Brooklyn, N.Y.

WANTED: Individual photos of members of the CHS. Will trade any two photos from my list for picture, any style will do but prefer bust.

Photos of Bailey Bros. - Clyde Beatty - Cole Bros., Beers-Barnes, Bradley Benson - Arthur Bros., Ringling Bros., Barnum and Bailey - Dailey Bros. - all 1945 views.

116 or 130 size - 15 cents - 5 x 7" - 30 cents. Lists No. 1-2 and 3 and sample 15 cents.  
HARRY P. BOWMAN ----- JEANNETTE, Pa.